REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 9, 10, 17, and 23 have been amended. Claims 1-24 are pending in the application. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

Specification:

Section 2 of the Office Action objected to the specification because element numbers and/or figure numbers do not correspond to the drawings. Accordingly, the specification has been amended to reflect proper correspondence.

Drawings:

Section 3 of the Office Action objected to the drawings for not showing every feature of the invention specified in the claims and stipulated that "the indicator in each of the said plurality of storage locations that indicates whether a corresponding work queue element has been completed must be shown. Accordingly, the appropriate figure has been so amended, and a replacement sheet including this figure is attached hereto.

Section 112 Rejections:

Section 5 of the Office Action rejected claims 1-16 and 23-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention.

With regard to claims 1 and 9, the Office Action states "the phrase 'said selected storage location' lacks proper antecedent basis. The claim language would be improved if the phrase were changed to said selected one of said plurality of storage locations".

Accordingly, these claims have been amended to incorporate the suggested change.

With regard to claims 2-8 and 10-16, the Office Action states that these claims "are rejected because they incorporate the deficiencies of claims 1 and 9". The Applicants assert that the amendments made to claims 1 and 9 should overcome this rejection.

With regard to claims 23 and 24, the Office Action states "the phrase 'said one or more processors' lacks proper antecedent basis. Accordingly, claim 23 has been amended to correct the problem.

Section 7 of the Office Action rejected claims 1-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement.

With regard to claims 1 and 9, the Office Action states, in pertinent part, "The specification does not describe each of a plurality of storage locations including an indicator indicating whether a corresponding work queue element has been completed". "In addition, figure 3B shows a queue pair implemented in a group of memory locations. The figure and corresponding description on page 9 do not disclose a completion indicator as claimed."

The specification has been amended at page 10, lines 4-5 to clearly identify the indicator as follows: "Software driver 150 then clears the Busy bit 310 (e.g. the completion indicator) in FIG. 3B for that corresponding work queue element".

Support for the indicator is found at page 8, lines 4-6, specifically "As a work queue element completes, the location... may become available." Further the operation of the busy bit is supported at page 10, lines 2-14 as follows: "If the request is not a new work request... software driver 150 checks ... for the completed work queue element. Software driver 150 then clears the Busy bit... software driver 150 checks for an

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available location... by <u>checking the Busy bit</u>... Software driver 150 then sets the Busy bit, which indicates that this location is no longer available.

Applicants assert that the amendment to the specification is fully supported as described above, and that no new matter has been introduced.

Section 103(a) Rejections:

Section 10 of the Office Action rejected claims 17, 23 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Regnier et al., U.S. Patent Number 6,647,423, (hereinafter "Regnier") in view of McAlpine et al., U.S. Patent Number 6,070,219, (hereinafter "McAlpine"). The Applicants respectfully traverse.

Amended claim 17 recites, in pertinent part, "providing an indicator in each of said plurality of storage locations to indicate that a corresponding work queue element has been completed; in response to completion of a task associated with said corresponding work queue element, a hardware adapter allowing a software driver to set said indicator to indicate that said corresponding work queue element has been completed".

As stated in paragraph B) of section 10 of the Office Action, Regnier fails to teach providing an indicator in each of said plurality of storage locations to indicate that a corresponding work queue element has been completed. Regnier is therefore, completely silent with regard to a hardware adapter influencing said indicator.

McAlpine, at column 4, lines 58-60, discloses "The NIC 40 writes completion status information into a descriptor 120 when a packet send or packet receive operation relating to that descriptor 120 has been completed". It appears that McAlpine then, teaches away from a software driver setting a work queue element completion indicator as presented in claim 17.
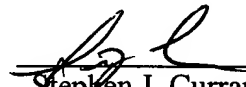
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Since neither Regnier nor McAlpine taken either singly or in combination teach or suggest the limitations of claim 17, the Applicants believe claim 17 along with its dependent claims to patentably distinguish over the cited art.

CONCLUSION

Applicants submit the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is requested.

If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert, & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account No. 501505/5500/6550.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen J. Curran
Reg. No. 50,664
AGENT FOR APPLICANT(S)

Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert, & Goetzel, P.C.
P.O. Box 398
Austin, TX 78767-0398
Phone: (512) 853-8800

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